DAWN

KARACHI Monday, November 10, 2025

METRO South

KARACHI

Sunset	05:47pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow)	06:44am

NEXT 24 HRS

Minimum	17°C
Maximum	30°C
Humidity	58%
Outlook	Sunny

Forest defeat Leeds to boost survival bid in Premier League

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Govt urged to set up special courts under mines and minerals law

By Sumair Abdullah

KARACHI: A sessions court has advised the Sindh government to take necessary steps to establish special courts under the Sindh Mines and Minerals Governance Act, 2021.

The suggestion was made by Additional District and Sessions Judge (Malir) Liaqat Ali Khoso, while allowing a revision application in which he set aside the impugned order of a magistrate who did not entertain direct complaint filed by an official of Mines and Mineral Development Department against private respondents for an offence punishable under Section 27 (unauthorised Mining, Stock and Dressing of Mineral and punishment) of the SMMGA, 2021, concerning alleged illegal mining of Mouram.

"It is necessary that certain advise and directions may be given to remove hurdles in smooth functions and discharge of work under the Act, 2021, hence the Sindh Government is advised to take necessary steps and expedite for issuing notification as required under section 38 [Special Court for Mines and Minerals] of the SMMG, Act, 2021 for establishment of the special courts in each division throughout the province of Sindh as soon as possible," the court advised.

While setting aside the impugned order, the court directed the magistrate to "entertain the Direct Criminal Complaint forthwith, proceed in accordance with section 200 Cr.P.C, and pass the appropriate orders regarding the issuance of process under section 204 Cr.P.C or otherwise under the mandate provided by the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898 without being prejudiced by this order".

It also directed that the magistrate may continue to hold proceedings within his jurisdiction until a special court under the SMMGA is duly established and becomes functional, after which the case may be transferred to the special court for trial in accordance with the law.

Mentioning "cardinal error" in the impugned order, the court noted that it failed to distinguish between the procedural step of taking cognisance and the final judicial act of trial, which commences after framing of charge and culminates in a judgment of acquittal or conviction.

The court also highlighted that the Section 37

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AN excavator digs up University Road for the installation of pipes, part of the K-4 water project, as some pipes lie along the roadside.—Dawn

Commuters to suffer as University Road shut until year-end

- K-IV pipeline work seals off stretch between Nipa and Hassan Square till Dec 30
- Traffic police advise motorists to use Rashid Minhas Road via Aladdin Park

By Imran Ayub

KARACHI: A new wave of road closures is set to cripple Karachi once again as after the much-delayed Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Red Line project turned major arteries into construction zones, the Karachi Water and Sewerage System Improvement Project (KWSSIP) is bringing fresh digging, roadblocks and traffic congestion to one of the city's busiest thoroughfares — University Road.

"The closure is necessary for laying new 96-inch and 72-inch pipelines as part of the K-IV augmentation plan," said a senior official. "This stretch, which is roughly 2.7 kilometres long, will form part of a new network that's crucial for improving the city's water supply."

Digging work has already started on a section of the University Road between Nipa Chowrangi and The Federal Urdu University of Arts, Science and Technology (Fuuast).

The second phase will extend from Hasan Square to Nipa Chowrangi, according to project documents.

Officials have set Dec 30 as the deadline, but many remain "sceptical", given the city's track record of repeated delays and missed timelines.

Traffic police have suggested a diversion route via Aladdin Park, Rashid Minhas Road, to ease congestion, though officers admit that alternative roads are already under heavy pressure due to ongoing construction.

However, for hundreds of thousands of daily commuters, the Red Line's construction has already brought endless congestion, dust and frustration to residents of Gulshan-i-Iqbal, Gulistan-i-Johar and adjoining areas.

"It's been years of digging and no relief," said Abdul Maalik Atiqi, a commuter who travels daily from Gulshan-i-Iqbal to Saddar. "Now they're closing another part of University Road. We're trapped in a city that never stops breaking."

"In Karachi, progress always begins with a roadblock," said Nighat Tasneem, a daily user of University Road for her work at I. I. Chundrigar Road.

For city's weary residents, the new closure marks yet another chapter in the city's long saga of "development at the cost of daily life."

Sources within the government organisations involved with the Red Line and K-IV projects admit that coordination between multiple agencies has been poor.

"This is true to a large extent — there's a serious lack of a unified plan. One department digs up what the other has just restored," said an official.

The K-IV Augmentation Project involves the construction of a bulk transmission and distribution system to supply an additional 260 million gallons per day of water to Karachi from the main K-IV line.

This project, funded and executed solely by the Sindh government, is a crucial supplementary initiative designed to connect the main K-IV filtration plants to Karachi's existing water network. However, its University Road section is likely to create political fallout for the Pakistan Peoples Party-led Sindh government.

Opposition parties take PPP to task

The opposition parties have wasted no time criticising the Sindh government.

Jamaat-i-Islami Karachi chief Monem Zafar Khan lashed out, saying the city has turned into a maze of broken roads and failed projects.

"The PPP's so-called development means endless suffering for Karachi's citizens," he said.

Similarly, Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) leaders echoed similar frustration, accusing the provincial government of mismanagement and corruption.

"Every few months we hear new deadlines and new projects, but the result is the same — dust, traffic, and despair," said Fauzia Siddiqi, the PTI spokesperson for the Karachi chapter.

Man drowns in Hub Canal after rescuing two sons

KARACHI: A man drowned while saving his two minor sons in Hub Canal on Sunday, police said.

Manghopir SHO Mohammed Zubair Nawaz told *Dawn* that a Korangi family came to Hub Canal near Northern Bypass for picnic.

At around 3:30pm, they were taking a dip in the canal when two children drowned. Their father, Majeed Khan, rescued both the children but he lost control and drowned.

The body was recovered and shifted to the Abbasi Shaheed Hospital (ASH) for medico-legal formalities.

Suspect shot dead in 'encounter'

A suspected robber was gunned down and another arrested in wounded condition after an alleged encounter in F.B. Area on Sunday, police said.

Central SSP Zeeshan Shafiq Siddiqi said that the Shaheen Force challenged the robbers near Aqsa Masjid in Block-19. The suspects resorted to firing and in an exchange of gunfire, one suspect was killed and another arrested in an injured condition.

The deceased was identified as Osama, 26, while the wounded was identified as Noor Muhammad, 32.

The police claimed to have recovered three cell phones, one pistol and cash from their custody.

The body and injured were shifted to ASH.

Police briefly detain PTI workers in Model Colony

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: The Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) on Sunday claimed that its workers' convention in Model Colony was stormed by police, who tried to forcibly shut down the event by briefly detaining over a dozen activists.

The party claimed that a heavy contingent of police stormed the Quaid-i-Azam ground in Model Colony, took into custody several workers and forcibly shut down the event. It alleged that the police also confiscated chairs, sound systems, and other material arranged for the event.

However, later in the evening, the workers were released and the party was allowed to hold its event, said a PTI spokesperson.

The convention was held and participants demanded immediate release of party founder Imran Khan.

PTI-Sindh President Haleem Adil Sheikh, general secretary Dr Masroor Siyal, Karachi chapter president Raja Azhar and a large number of activists attended the convention.

The PTI claimed that local leader of the Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan Amir Khan along with likeminded workers joined the PTI. Mr Sheikh and other leaders welcomed them.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr Sheikh slammed the ruling coalition for bringing 27th Amendment and urged people to lodge their forceful protest against what he described as an unconstitutional step.

He said that Imran Khan had empowered the opposition alliance Tehreek-i-Tahafuz Ayeen-i-Pakistan (TTAP) to launch a movement against the proposed amendments.

Death toll rises to 26 as girl dies of dengue

Doctor says there's no decline in cases despite drop in temperature

By Faiza Ilyas

KARACHI: A teenage girl died of dengue fever on Sunday at the Sindh Infectious Diseases Hospital and Research Centre (SIDH&RC), raising the official tally to 26 in the province since October.

The data released by the provincial health department showed that the 19-year-old girl was a resident of Korangi.

Sources said that the victim had fits when her family rushed her to the hospital.

"She reported to us with dengue encephalitis, a rare and severe complication of dengue fever," a senior doctor at SIDH&RC told *Dawn*, adding that the girl passed away a day after admission.

The symptoms of dengue encephalitis, he pointed out, included seizures, muscle weakness, confusion or disorientation, and altered consciousness or coma.

According to sources, the total number of dengue fever deaths at SIDH&RC — where currently 30 patients are battling the mosquito-borne viral infection — has risen to 13 this year.

"Despite a drop in temperature, we are not seeing any decline in cases right now. I think we might have to wait until December to see a noticeable decline in cases in Karachi," he said.

Official figures show that a total of 727 patients — 269 in Karachi and 458 in Hyderabad — tested positive for dengue fever in the last 24 hours.

"Currently, 271 patients are under treatment at government hospitals and 171 at private healthcare facilities. The provincial tally of cases has risen to 6,708 this month, while a total of 12,284 cases have been recorded this year," said a statement released by the health department.

According to experts, dengue is not a communicable disease. However, during the first four to five days of fever, an infected person can transmit the virus to mosquitoes, which can then infect others. Even during recovery, if Aedes mosquitoes are around, protection is essential.

Govt fixes dengue, malaria test rates but most labs don't comply

Healthcare commission sets maximum fees for various clinical tests in view of outbreak; AKUH, LNH implement revised charges

By Dawar Shoaib

KARACHI: Despite the Sindh Healthcare Commission's (SHCC) recent announcement of slashing fees of dengue, malaria and complete blood count (CBC) tests to make healthcare affordable for citizens, many private diagnostic laboratories are still charging patients their "own rates".

Keeping in view the alarming surge in dengue and malaria cases in the province, the SHCC issued a notification on Oct 21, directing all private diagnostic laboratories in Sindh to lower the fees for dengue and malaria-related tests till Dec 31, 2025.

It said that the maximum rates of malaria ICT (Immunochromatographic Test) were reduced from Rs3,050 to Rs600, the dengue NS1 (non-structural protein 1) antigen test from Rs4,550 to Rs1,100, the dengue IgM/combo test from Rs4,150 to Rs1,500, and the CBC with smear test (including follow-up CBCs for dengue patients) from Rs1,250 to Rs500.

In a media release, the commission had claimed that major diagnostic facilities, including the Aga Khan University Hospital (AKUH) Clinical Laboratories, Chughtai Lab and Dr Essa Laboratory and Diagnostic Centre, Tabba Heart Institute and other laboratories, had agreed to implement the revised rates.

It is true that labs of the Aga Khan University Hospital and Liaquat National Hospital (LNH) have implemented the new rates, but a survey conducted by *Dawn* revealed that several laboratories continue to charge more than the approved rates.

Private diagnostic laboratories in Karachi generally fall into four categories — those catering to corporate clients; hospital-based labs operating within private facilities; those affiliated with hospitals but maintaining collection points across the city; and independent diagnostic laboratories that operate citywide without hospital affiliation.

Chughtai Lab, Dr Essa Lab and Tabba Heart Institute, which agreed to comply with the SHCC's directives, are implementing the revised rates only partially, the survey showed.

Chughtai Lab has adopted the new rates for the malaria ICT and dengue NS1 tests, but continues to charge Rs800 for a CBC and Rs6,000 for a dengue IgM (anti-body), well above the prescribed limits.

Similarly, Dr Essa Lab is charging Rs720 for a CBC, compared to the SHCC's capped rate of Rs500, though the remaining three tests follow the official rates.

Likewise, Tabba Heart Institute is charging Rs1,010 for a CBC test instead of Rs500.

Laboratories run by charitable health organisations, including Hussaini Diagnostic & Pathology and Al-Khidmat Hospital Lab, are charging either equal to or lower than the SHCC's revised rates.

By contrast, Dow Lab, a public/government-affiliated entity, is charging Rs580 for a CBC and Rs810 for a malaria ICT, both exceeding the maximum rates set by the SHCC.

Several private hospitals' in-house laboratories are also reportedly ignoring the revised rates.

According to sources, some private hospitals have "their own pricing" and they do not follow the SHCC's notification, while others say they are "considering the implementation" but have not yet made any changes.

Patients left burdened

For patients in low-income localities, the revised prices have offered little relief.

With dengue cases continuing to surge in Karachi, many families say they still cannot afford the diagnostic tests, which collectively cost around Rs4,000, while their daily income averages only Rs1,000 to Rs1,500.

Sadia, a mother of two from New Karachi, said she was asked to pay Rs3,100 for dengue and CBC tests.

"I cannot afford this. It's almost equal to my husband's weekly earnings. I heard the government had reduced the rates, but what's the use of such a reduction if we still can't afford the tests?" she asked.

A patient at a trust hospital in North Nazimabad shared a similar experience.

"I was advised to undergo a CBC, MP ICT and dengue tests. The lab staff demanded Rs6,660. When I mentioned the SHCC's reduced rates, they refused and said the hospital had its own prices," he said, adding that he could not visit another laboratory as he was already unwell.

Response from SHCC

Talking to *Dawn*, SHCC Chief Executive Officer Dr Ahsan Qavi said that in view of the rising cases of dengue and malaria, the commission, in coordination with private diagnostic laboratories, had decided to reduce the rates of these tests.

He explained that the reduced rates would only be applicable if a patient visited the laboratory with a doctor's prescription.

Dr Qavi said that the notification issued by the commission was being implemented.

He added that a compliance letter had also been sent to private hospitals' in-house laboratories, directing them to follow the revised rates issued by the SHCC.

He further stated that if any private laboratory is found not following the SHCC's revised rates even after a patient have a valid prescription from a medical practitioner and a complaint is received, the commission will take action accordingly.